

08/595,957

- 33 -

ABSTRACT

Providing

a ~~Methods and apparatus are disclosed for providing a firewall for isolating~~
network elements from a publicly accessible network to which such network elements
are attached. The firewall operates on a stand alone computer connected between the
5 public network and the network elements to be protected such that all access to the
protected network elements must go through the firewall. The firewall application
running on the stand alone computer is preferably the only application running on that
machine. The application includes a variety of proxy agents that are specifically
assigned to an incoming request in accordance with the service protocol (i.e., port
10 number) indicated in the incoming access request. An assigned proxy agent verifies
the authority of an incoming request to access a network element indicated in the
request. Once verified, the proxy agent completes the connection to the protected
network element on behalf of the source of the incoming request.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176